



U. S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 14, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

This responds to your letter, dated October 6, 2005, to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales requesting the appointment of an outside special counsel to investigate the circumstances surrounding the termination of Fred Black's tenure as the Acting United States Attorney for Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and to investigate whether Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff used his influence within the Department of Justice to attempt to prevent the release of a classified review of Guam and CNMI immigration laws. Identical responses are being sent to the other four Members who joined in your letter to the Attorney General.

As you know, the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, has initiated an investigation regarding Mr. Black's allegations concerning the termination of his tenure as Acting United States Attorney for Guam and the CNMI. If the Inspector General determines that there is evidence of a criminal violation, he will bring that information to an appropriate prosecuting office within the Department of Justice for review. As you are also aware, the FBI is working with career prosecutors in the Department of Justice on an investigation regarding the activities of Mr. Abramoff. We assure you that all such matters will be handled appropriately and impartially by dedicated career professionals in the Department of Justice, and the Department will take all steps that are necessary to insure public confidence in the fairness of such investigations.

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Page Two

We appreciate your writing to express your concerns. If we can be of further assistance regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William E. Moschella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and 'M'.

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Glenn Fine
Inspector General